

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 9, lines 11-12 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 10 depicts Hsp47 transgene induced protection of EC from CIK mediated lysis (RDEL; SEQ ID NO: 2).

Please replace the paragraph on page 32, lines 4-12 with the following amended paragraph:

EC were transfected either with full-length Hsp47 or a Hsp47 mutant lacking the C-terminal ER retention sequence RDEL (SEQ ID NO: 2). The cells were exposed to CIK cells and a standard ^{51}Cr release assay (20:1 E:T ratio) was performed. As shown in Figure ~~11~~,10, about 25% of control EC cells were lysed, about 20% of EC expressing full-length Hsp47 were lysed, and virtually none of the EC expressing the mutant Hsp47 were lysed. This increase in protection arises from the fact that truncation of the RDEL (SEQ ID NO: 2) directs Hsp47 production to secretion. This is the first demonstration that otherwise universally sensitive EC can be rendered resistant to lysis by non-MHC restricted killer cells via expression of a transgene.

Please replace the paragraph on page 32, lines 16-21 with the following amended paragraph:

Hsp47 has some homology to HLA-A2 suggesting that a consensus peptide could protect EC from CIK mediated lysis. A peptide (AVLSAEQRL (SEQ ID NO: 1)) having the sequence of a region of Hsp47 that is homologous to a portion of HLA-A2 was generated. EC were exposed to CIK cells in the presence of the consensus peptide or an irrelevant control peptide and a standard ^{51}Cr release assay (20: 1 E:T ratio) was performed. As shown in Figure 10, the consensus peptide protected EC in a dose-dependent manner.